

INSIGHTS

Labor Market Information

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Economic Indicators

October 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,641,000	2,137,825
Employed	143,384,000	1,954,801
Unemployed	12,258,000	183,024
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	8.6%

Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 970.79	\$ 733.52
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.5	42.4
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.97	\$ 17.30

Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Spartanburg MSA	0.57%	4.23%
Florence MSA	0.71%	3.28%
Charleston MSA	0.13%	2.20%
Columbia MSA	1.37%	2.03%

Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.8%	58.4%
S.C. Population Ratio	53.5%	53.6%

Labor Force Participation Rate

	Oct.	Sep.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.8%	63.6%	0.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	58.5%	58.4%	0.1%

United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.2%
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Highlights

- Unemployment rate saw a significant drop of 0.5 percent since last month
- Unemployment rate down 1.5 percent since October 2011
- Overall payroll employment grew by 11,000
- Government employment increased for the second consecutive month
- Online job advertisements 5,200 higher than a year ago

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[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment
14,705



Unemployment
10,814



Unemployment
Rate 0.5%



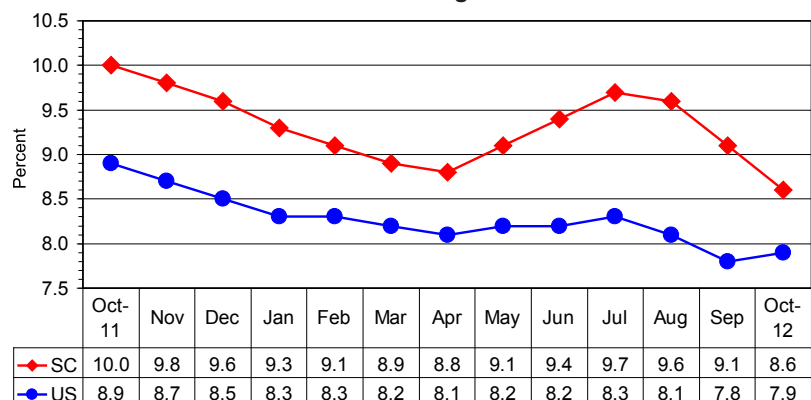
Significant Drop in Unemployment Rate

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped significantly in October to 8.6 percent from the September estimate of 9.1 percent. Since August, the rate has declined by 1.0 percentage point, a notable downward shift, which has not occurred since the summer of 1983. The number of unemployed people decreased over the month by 10,814 to 183,024. While the number of employed people climbed by 14,705 to 1,954,801, the labor force also saw a modest increase of 3,891 to 2,137,825. Since October 2011, the unemployment rate has fallen 1.4 percentage points.

Nationally, the unemployment rate rose slightly higher from 7.8 percent in September to 7.9 percent in October, primarily driven by an increase in the labor force of 578,000 people. Approximately 410,000 more people found work, while nearly 170,000 people began searching but were unable to find work during the month.

On the horizon, retail hiring is increasing as the holiday season rapidly approaches. Across the nation, much discussion continues to take place regarding The Budget Control Act of 2011. If and how the nation's leaders respond to this current statute remains unclear. Until the outcome is known, businesses and individuals will be dealing with uncertainty related to federal spending cuts and tax increases contained in the statute. The future impacts of the law could be significant for economic growth and potential hiring.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates
October 2011 through October 2012



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.

October Unemployment Rates by County

State Unemployment Rates

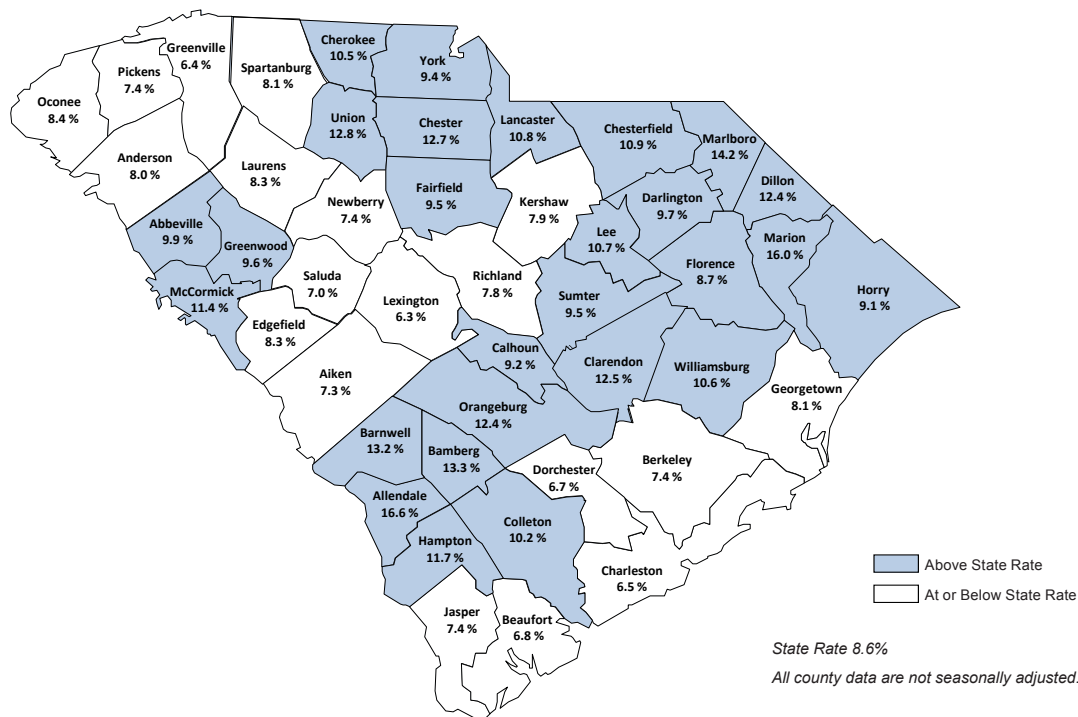
Nevada	11.5
Rhode Island	10.4
California	10.1
New Jersey	9.7
North Carolina	9.3
Michigan	9.1
Connecticut	9.0
Mississippi	8.9
Illinois	8.8
Georgia	8.7
New York	8.7
Oregon	8.6
South Carolina	8.6
D.C.	8.5
Florida	8.5
Kentucky	8.4
Tennessee	8.2
Washington	8.2
Alabama	8.1
Arizona	8.1
Pennsylvania	8.1
Indiana	8.0
United States	7.9
Colorado	7.9
West Virginia	7.5
Maine	7.4
Arkansas	7.2
Alaska	7.1
Idaho	7.0
Missouri	6.9
Ohio	6.9
Wisconsin	6.9
Delaware	6.8
Maryland	6.7
Louisiana	6.6
Massachusetts	6.6
Texas	6.6
New Mexico	6.3
Montana	6.0
Minnesota	5.8
Kansas	5.7
New Hampshire	5.7
Virginia	5.7
Hawaii	5.5
Vermont	5.5
Oklahoma	5.3
Utah	5.2
Wyoming	5.2
Iowa	5.1
South Dakota	4.5
Nebraska	3.8
North Dakota	3.1

Preliminary county unemployment rate estimates (not seasonally adjusted) for October 2012 decreased in 17 counties across the state. There was no change in 18 counties, and 11 counties experienced rate increases. The unemployment rate in Lexington County remained the lowest at 6.3 percent, and the highest rate was found in Allendale County with 16.6 percent.

Over the year, the counties with the largest declines in unemployment rate have been Union, Marlboro, and York. The rate for Union dropped by approximately 3.6 percentage points. Marlboro and York counties fell in excess of 3.0 percentage points as well. These lower rates were caused by a combination of people finding jobs and people leaving the labor force.

Spartanburg continued to lead in labor force growth and in people finding work over the year, with nearly 4,000 more people working now than in October 2011. Charleston (+3,000) and Richland (+2,630) also had increases. Anderson (-1,050) and Aiken (-1,330) had fewer people working and more people leaving the labor force since October 2011.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Allendale	16.6%	Beaufort	6.8%
Marion	16.0%	Dorchester	6.7%
Marlboro	14.2%	Charleston	6.5%
Bamberg	13.3%	Greenville	6.4%
Barnwell	13.2%	Lexington	6.3%



South Carolina Ranked Thirteenth of Fifty-one in October

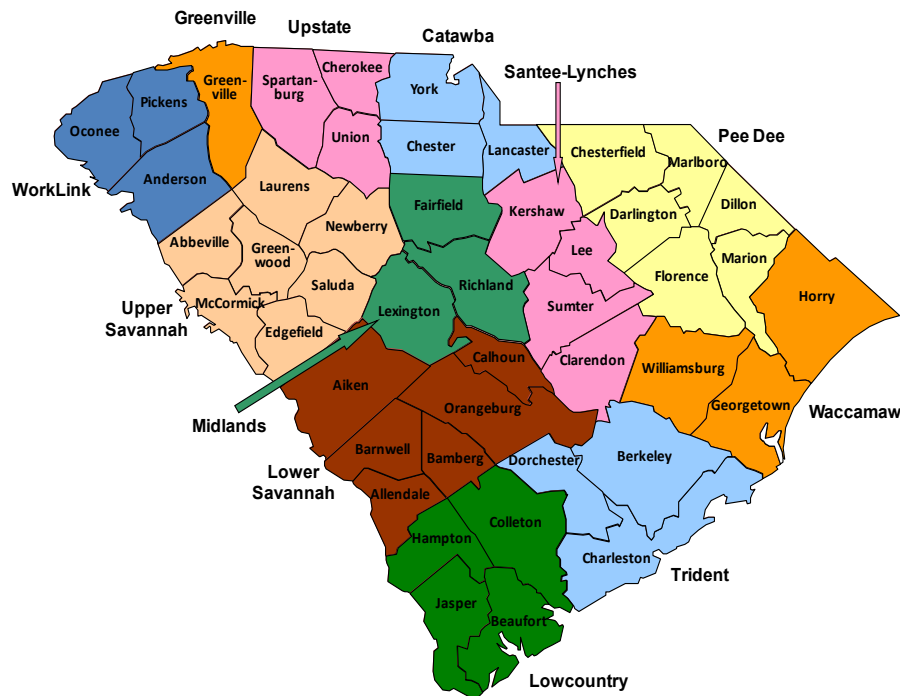
South Carolina had the largest over-the-month decline in the unemployment rate and was ranked 13th in the nation among all states, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia reported unemployment rate decreases, seven states posted rate increases, and six states had no change. Forty-two states and the District of Columbia registered unemployment rate losses from a year earlier, while eight states experienced gains. The national jobless rate, 7.9 percent, was essentially unchanged from September, but was 1.0 percentage point lower than in October 2011.

In October 2012, nonfarm payroll employment rose in 35 states and the District of Columbia and fell in 15 states. The largest over-the-month increase in employment occurred in California (+45,800), followed by Texas (+36,600) and Georgia (+16,100). The largest over-the-month decrease in employment occurred in Michigan (-16,500), followed by New Jersey (-11,700) and Minnesota (-8,100).

Employment Changes by County August through October 2012

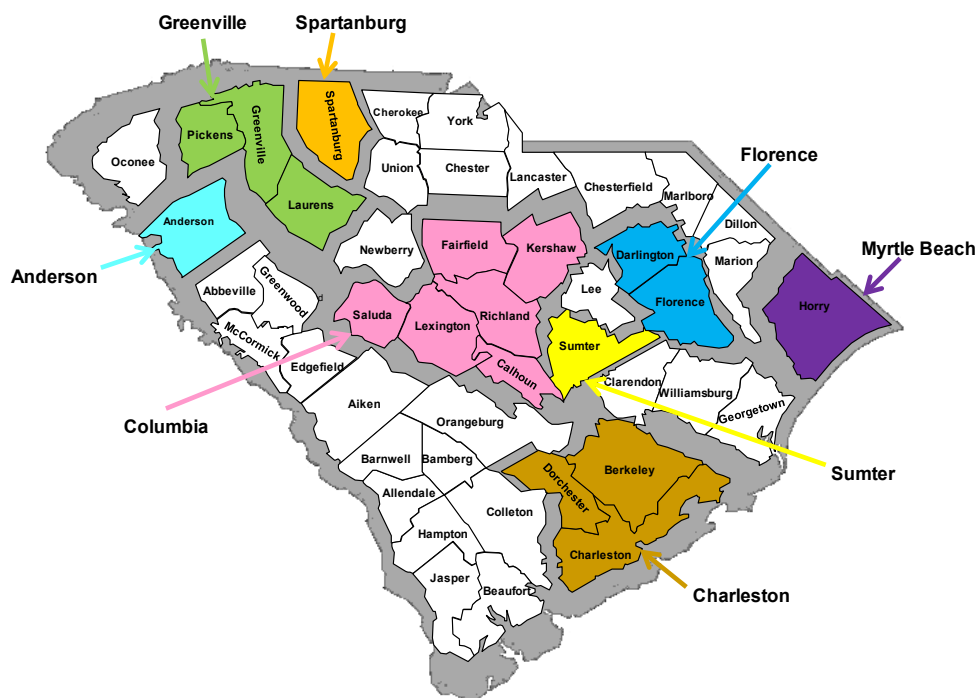
County	Employment			Net change from:	
	Oct 2012	Sep 2012	Aug 2012	Sep-Oct 2012	Aug-Sep 2012
Abbeville	9,705	9,687	9,446	18	241
Aiken	68,135	68,089	67,574	46	515
Allendale	2,786	2,789	2,731	-3	58
Anderson	74,966	74,363	73,512	603	851
Bamberg	5,382	5,376	5,244	6	132
Barnwell	7,277	7,277	7,105	0	172
Beaufort	60,426	60,518	58,678	-92	1,840
Berkeley	78,054	78,118	77,627	-64	491
Calhoun	6,107	6,039	6,007	68	32
Charleston	164,634	164,768	163,732	-134	1,036
Cherokee	22,268	22,229	21,606	39	623
Chester	12,669	12,617	12,360	52	257
Chesterfield	16,716	16,697	16,333	19	364
Clarendon	10,768	10,793	10,577	-25	216
Colleton	15,335	15,356	15,006	-21	350
Darlington	27,882	27,728	27,574	154	154
Dillon	11,519	11,512	11,271	7	241
Dorchester	63,821	63,873	63,471	-52	402
Edgefield	10,018	10,011	9,935	7	76
Fairfield	9,609	9,501	9,451	108	50
Florence	57,552	57,235	56,916	317	319
Georgetown	27,195	27,257	26,781	-62	476
Greenville	209,290	206,896	204,220	2,394	2,676
Greenwood	28,031	28,016	27,158	15	858
Hampton	6,864	6,868	6,701	-4	167
Horry	114,616	115,295	118,198	-679	-2,903
Jasper	9,730	9,744	9,448	-14	296
Kershaw	27,363	27,057	26,913	306	144
Lancaster	27,404	27,318	26,683	86	635
Laurens	27,946	27,626	27,269	320	357
Lee	7,232	7,214	7,144	18	70
Lexington	125,145	123,746	123,088	1,399	658
Marion	9,938	9,941	9,816	-3	125
Marlboro	9,725	9,742	9,501	-17	241
McCormick	2,939	2,939	2,866	0	73
Newberry	16,855	16,841	16,472	14	369
Oconee	28,581	28,509	27,801	72	708
Orangeburg	36,182	36,120	35,282	62	838
Pickens	53,524	52,912	52,228	612	684
Richland	168,168	166,288	165,403	1,880	885
Saluda	8,417	8,323	8,279	94	44
Spartanburg	124,132	123,424	121,531	708	1,893
Sumter	39,797	39,981	39,407	-184	574
Union	9,959	9,934	9,694	25	240
Williamsburg	14,318	14,326	14,077	-8	249
York	101,172	100,329	99,087	843	1,242

Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) October 2012



Catawba WIA	10.0%
www.catawbacog.org	
Greenville WIA	6.4%
www.greenvillweb.com	
Lowcountry WIA	7.8%
www.lowcountryworkforce.org	
Lower Savannah WIA	9.7%
www.lswia.org	
Midlands WIA	7.2%
www.midlandsworkforce.org	
Pee Dee WIA	10.5%
www.peedeewib.org	
Santee-Lynches WIA	9.5%
www.slworkforcedev.org	
Trident WIA	6.7%
www.toscc.org	
Upper Savannah WIA	8.6%
www.us1stops.com	
Upstate WIA	8.8%
www.upstatewib.org	
Waccamaw WIA	9.1%
www.wrcog.org	
Worklink WIA	7.9%
www.worklinkweb.com	

Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) October 2012



Anderson MSA	8.0%
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA	6.7%
Columbia MSA	7.3%
Florence MSA	9.0%
Greenville MSA	6.8%
Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway MSA	9.1%
Spartanburg MSA	8.1%
Sumter MSA	9.5%

South Carolina Employment Trends

South Carolina's nonfarm employment (not seasonally adjusted) continued to increase by 11,100 over the month to 1,874,900. Since last October, 34,500 jobs (about 1.9 percent) have been added in the state. Nationally, the number of jobs was up by approximately 1.5 percent from a year ago.

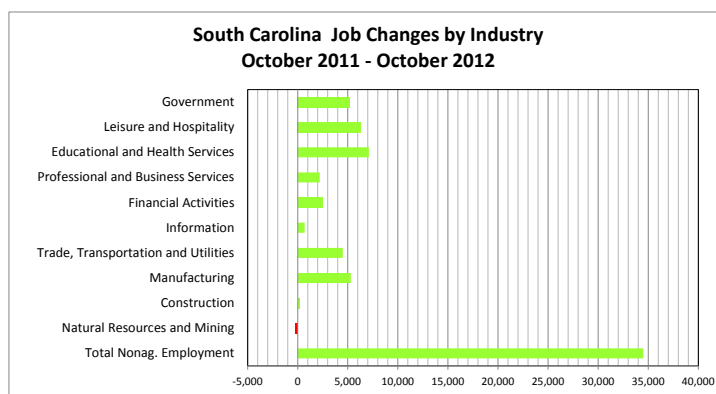
Government jobs rose for the second consecutive month, advancing 5,100 with a continued staffing growth in Educational Services. As preparations for the holiday season continued, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities increased by 1,900 jobs, and Financial Activities reported gains (+ 1,300), mostly in the Finance and Insurance subsector. Employment in Education and Health Services improved by 1,200 jobs as private school staffing continued to rise. Demand for Specialty Trade contractors enhanced employment in Construction (+900).

Over the month, jobs were lost in Leisure and Hospitality (-400) and Information (-200) due to seasonal declines for Accommodations and Food Services in the coastal areas and less demand for Information Services. The Mining and Logging, Manufacturing, and Professional and Business Services sectors were unchanged for the month.

Over the year, nearly all industries across the state noted improvements. Total nonfarm industries experienced an increase of 34,500 jobs. Education and Health Services (+7,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,300); Manufacturing (+5,300); Government (+5,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,500); Financial Activities (+2,500); Professional and Business Services (+2,200); and Information (+700) had employment gains. Other Services (+700) and Construction (+200) also reported increases.

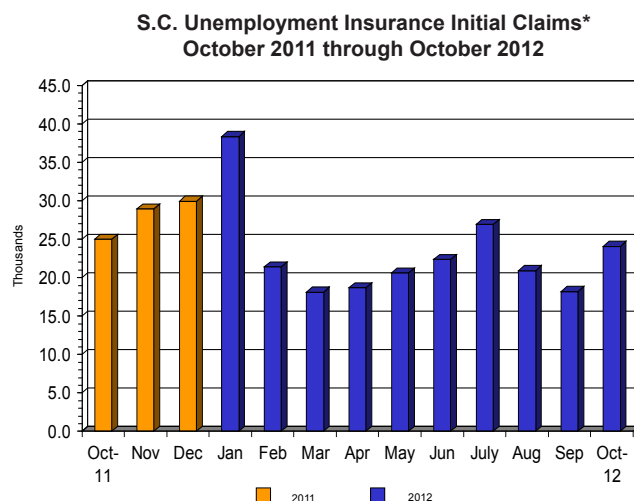
Since October 2011, the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of Columbia (7,100), Charleston (6,500), Spartanburg (5,000), and Florence (2,700) have experienced healthy growth. Sumter saw limited increases (600), along with Greenville (500) and Myrtle Beach (300). Anderson was down 1,000 jobs, mainly due to a decline in service related jobs.

Average weekly manufacturing hours in the state dropped by 0.1 hour over the month, while hourly wages increased by \$0.06. Over the year, hours have been flat with wages climbing by \$0.71 per hour.



October Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial claims recorded an increase of 6,137 from September to October. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits Paid showed a significant decline of over \$16.9 million since October 2011. The number of those who depleted the balance of their regular UI benefits fell by 2,255 when compared to last October, while the Average Duration of Benefits Paid was reduced from 15.6 weeks to 13.3 weeks over the past year.



SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	24,348
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$20,420,109
UI Benefits Exhausted	3,577
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	13.3
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$251.66

* All programs

South Carolina Workforce Areas

Catawba

Chester County
Lancaster County
York County

Greenville

Greenville County *

Lowcountry

Beaufort County
Colleton County
Hampton County
Jasper County

Lower Savannah

Aiken County
Allendale County
Bamberg County
Barnwell County
Calhoun County *
Orangeburg County

Midlands

Fairfield County *
Lexington County *
Richland County *

Pee Dee

Chesterfield County
Darlington County *
Dillon County
Florence County *
Marion County
Marlboro County

Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County
Kershaw County *
Lee County
Sumter County *

Trident

Berkeley County *
Charleston County *
Dorchester County *

Upper Savannah

Abbeville County
Edgefield County
Greenwood County
Laurens County *
McCormick County
Newberry County
Saluda County *

Upstate

Cherokee County
Spartanburg County *
Union County

Waccamaw

Georgetown County
Horry County *
Williamsburg County

WorkLink

Anderson County *
Oconee County
Pickens County *

* These counties are affiliated with SC Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

Online job advertisements in South Carolina showed a decrease of about 2,100 ads from September to October, according to The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were approximately 5,200 higher in October 2012. Across the United States, online ads saw a decrease of 77,800 in the past month.

Labor demand in the Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) was the greatest with 13,200 posted advertisements. The Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) followed with 12,263 online advertisements. Statewide, the labor supply versus demand rate remained at 3.3.

The top five online advertisements in South Carolina for October included:

1. Registered Nurses = 3,103
2. Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer = 2,295
3. First-Line Supervisors & Managers of Retail Sales Workers = 2,214
4. Retail Salespersons = 1,841
5. Physical Therapists = 1,579

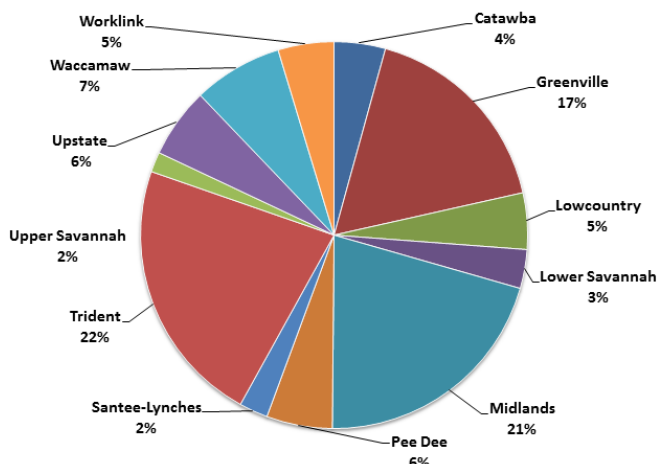
This table provides a breakdown of data and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas October 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,534	15,612	6:1 ↓
Greenville	10,187	14,387	1:1
Lowcountry	2,791	7,833	3:1
Lower Savannah	1,925	13,584	7:1
Midlands	12,263	23,562	2:1
Pee Dee	3,254	15,641	5:1
Santee-Lynches	1,421	8,917	6:1
Trident	13,200	22,132	2:1
Upper Savannah	991	9,825	10:1 ↑
Upstate	3,467	15,076	4:1 ↓
Waccamaw	4,423	15,549	4:1 ↑
Worklink	2,766	13,412	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	55,900 (SA)	183,024 (SA)	3:1
United States (U.S.)	4,735,600 (SA)	12,300,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series measures online jobs (rounded) from about 16,000 major Internet job sites and smaller job sites that serve niche markets and smaller geographic areas. The online series counts the number of online job advertisements, which may or may not have multiple job openings. The level of ads in print and online can change for reasons not related to overall job demand.

South Carolina Online Job Advertisements by Workforce Areas



Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information